

What is claimed is:

1. A method for forming a heat transfer device for dissipating heat comprising the steps of :
  - arranging a plurality of fins that are formed with openings that substantially align with one another so as to define a die;
  - driving a heat pipe comprising a thermally conductive envelope into said die so as to deform said envelope thereby forming at least one flattened surface and wherein an outside shape of said thermally conductive envelope is complementary with said openings; and
  - supporting said fins upon said thermally conductive envelope such that said thermally conductive envelope substantially defines a mounting base for said heat transfer device, and is attachable to a heat source for thermal energy exchange with said heat source.
2. A heat transfer device formed in accordance with the method of claim 1.
3. The heat transfer device of claim 2 wherein said fins comprise a plurality of spaced-apart fins forming a stack.
4. The heat transfer device of claim 2 wherein said fins comprise substantially parallel flat sheets.

5. The heat transfer device formed by the method of claim 12 wherein said thermally conductive envelope is deformed by said fins.

6. The heat transfer device of claim 5 wherein said openings in said fins are disposed along an outside edge, and are aligned to define a channel, wherein said channel has a reduction in channel width for defining the outside shape of said heat pipe.

7. The heat transfer device of claim 6 wherein said conductive envelope defines an oval cross-section having a flattened surface at least on a side facing outwardly.

10. The method of claim 1 including forming a collar raised around at least part of said opening prior to driving said thermally conductive envelope.

11. A method according to claim 1 wherein said fins are substantially exclusively supported by said at least one thermally conductive envelope.

12. The method of claim 1 including changing said outside shape of said heat pipe by driving said thermally conductive envelope on a forming surface defined by said plurality of fins.